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www.mercedgolfandcountryclub.com

Merced Golf & Country Club  
6333 North Golf Road  
Merced, CA 95340

# Chip Shots

Clubhouse 722-6268  
Golf Shop 722-3357

Volume 16, Issue 1

NEWS LETTER

JANUARY 2018

## MERCED GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Gerald Corman**  
President

**Rick Wallace**  
Vice President, Treasurer & Finance

**Frankie Spiva**  
Golf Operations

**Dan Smith**  
Membership

**Aaron Castleton**  
Long Range Planning  
Bylaws & Procedures

**Mike Duda**  
House Committee

**Ed Benes**  
Human Resources

**David Rogina**  
Social

**Tom Palumbo**  
Greens

### OFFICERS

**Wendell Hammon**  
Secretary

**Scott Lucas**  
Finance Liaison

### DIVISION PRESIDENT/ CAPTAIN

Wes Barkwill . . . . . Senior President  
Nancy Slater . . . . . 18-Hole Capt.  
Jeanne McAuley . . . . . 9-Hole Capt.

### CLUB STAFF

Berna Lucas . . . . . Club Manager  
David Whitby . . . . . Club PRO  
Dave Samano . . . . . Club Chef

## NOTES from the President

**My Final Presidential Words...** This is my last Chip Shots message. By February, the club will have a new President to take over the helm.

It's been a sunny December, enabling us to get out on the course a lot. It's been nice, but worrisome that we may be back to a drought mode again. In any event, the club looks great. With the cooler weather, the greens staff has been working hard to work on some delayed projects. They did a great job in clearing up the entry area to the clubhouse.

We should see some improvements over the next couple of months. They are planning to clear out the creek bed, which should make it easier to find the stray balls that land in the ditch, and should also improve the aesthetics. They are also planning to trim up some of the low hanging branches, which should make life a bit easier for those of us who hit the occasional shot into the trees. They have also redone the bunker on the short game practice green, with the new sand that is available to us... next time you are out practicing, give it a try, and let us know if you feel it's an improvement. In March, Brightview will be providing us with funds to rebuild two tee-boxes, including the Sixth tee, which has been a sore spot.

Kudos to the Ladies Division, led by the 18 hole group, for a great job on decorating the clubhouse... The board was unanimous in agreeing that it looked the best we've seen in memory. Again ladies, we can't thank you enough!

On January 10, we will have our annual membership meeting following Stag Day, at 6:00 p.m. All members and their spouses are welcome to attend. We will have out year end financials, as well as the next year's budget on each table. However, if you want to spend time studying them prior to the meeting, they, as always, are available for review by members in the office and bar. The new board members and officers will be announced.

As a preview... and a "State of the Club" message, I will make a few comments. Last year, I did a study of our budget, and determined that the club had a negative cash flow of \$8500 per month. The cause of the problem was a steadily declining membership. From the late 1990's when we had a full membership of 425 playing members, we had dropped to a total of 197 members (including executive members paying the same dues). This trend was continuing at an alarming rate. This resulted in regular assessments that were hurting our membership. We held several workshops open to the membership to discuss possible solutions.

The two obvious solutions were (1) raise our dues to make up for the shortfall, (which had the disadvantage of the likelihood that this would drive off more members); or (2) going semi-public, (which could lead to loss of members, and uncertainties in light of public courses struggling in the area... e.g. the closing of Stevenson Ranch). The solution we came up with was to convert the then Executive Membership to Playing Memberships (which was the original plan when that program was created), and create a new Executive Membership, which was non-proprietary, but at a lower cost (\$250). This program was successful in increasing our revenue, not only by the dues, but the additional revenue from cart rental or lease, pro shop purchases and guest fees, as well as a kitchen and bar purchases. We now have 83 Executive members. Notwithstanding the loss of a number of playing members (we have lost a total of 29), we are breaking even on our budget.

I ran a calculation based on our current status and where we were when the program started... without the program, each existing member would have to pay an additional \$70 per month, or \$834 per year. This is misleading, however, in that it would be much worse. The increased dues would most certainly have driven out more members, and the loss of revenues from the kitchen, bar, pro shop purchases and cart rentals would likely more than double that number.

In short, we appear to be righting what was last year a sinking ship. There is still much to be done. Our budget assumes a loss of 12 members over the next year, and an increase of 24 new Executive Members. This was the main reason I agreed to run for the one year vacancy we had on our board. My goal for next year is to work with our membership committee to improve our marketing to attract new members.

So I will bid you all farewell as your president, but likely stick around for another year as a board member that you can grouse about... Have a Happy and Very Good New Year in 2018.

Jerry Corman





Notes from:  
**David Whitby**  
PGA Club PRO

By the time you read this it will already be 2018! First I want to thank the entire membership for supporting demo day and our annual Christmas Pro Shop sale, they were both very successful.

Also this past December, we had our men's annual stag day which we were up in numbers from the previous year 16 players so that was positive news.

As we enter January and the wet season please remember to practice your short game as much as possible and always be putting, even in the rain.

And don't forget, we need members so if you know anyone that is interested in joining please have them come out to the club. We have a wonderful golf course and a wonderful membership and we should want others to enjoy what we do. I wish you and your family a happy and healthy new year!

David Whitby, PGA  
Head Professional

**Danny Moak**

Golf Course Superintendent

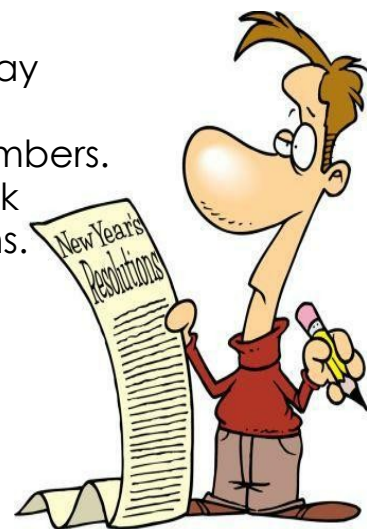


I again would like to start by thanking the members for the wonderful lunch that was provided to my staff and me for Christmas. We have had a busy month on the course. We were able to remove and replace the sand in the practice bunker and would like to ask the membership to try it out. Bark was added to all of the flower beds at the club house as well. We have also started work on the cleaning of the creek. Most of this work has been completed during our morning frost delays. We will also begin trimming the fence lines during these frosty mornings. We will also begin trimming the low hanging branches throughout the golf course. I would like to end by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



### MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS:

- I will get to the golf course at least 15 min before I have to tee off.
- I will do serious stretching before I play a round of golf.
- I will share a golf cart with other members.
- I will fill up my fairway divots and pick my golf ball marks on the greens.
- I will play more golf in 2018.
- I will take golf lessons.





# 18-Hole Ladies Division

Captain's Table  
**Nancy Slater**  
CAPTAIN



**Jeanne  
McAuley**

Happy New Year from the 18 Hole Ladies Division. We are looking forward to a year of golf, fun and friendship.

During the Ladies Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 7, outgoing Captain Linda Lucas introduced the 2018 Board. Captain - Nancy Slater, Co-Captain, Tournament Chair - Eileen Partlow, Assistant Tournament Chairs - Linda Pellissier and Carla Freel, Secretary - Maureen Buchner, Treasurer - Frankie Spiva, Handicap Chairperson - Ramona Stanford, Parliamentarian - Linda Lucas.

The Christmas Luncheon was delightful. Members of both Ladies groups invited guests, drawings were held, a delicious meal was enjoyed, and everyone had a wonderful time. A special feature of the luncheon each year is the presentation of toys for the Cops and Firefighters for Kids program.

Many thanks to Chairperson Barbara Flores and her team for festive decorations and to Berna and Chef Dave and their staff for a yummy lunch and glasses of holiday cheer!

Mark your calendars for the 18 Hole Ladies Division annual Kick-Off on Thursday, February 1. 8:00am hosted breakfast, 9:00am shotgun. Sign up with your foursome or reserve a spot for breakfast only in the

locker room or contact Eileen at [departlow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:departlow@sbcglobal.net)

Happy New Year

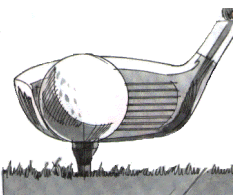
Nancy

What a wonderful year! A big thank you to all for helping out all year long, I really appreciate you sharing your talents. Susan Hammon lead our Team to a first place tie with Oakdale. The photos below show friends enjoying friends at our Annual Christmas Luncheon. One photo shows our Most Improved Player of the Year for 2017, Anne Willis. Barbara Flores and friends did a beautiful decorating job. The Niners put the bar in the Christmas spirit.

We wish to thank our Chef for a delicious lunch, Zach and Al for our Christmas cheer, all the servers, Dave and his staff, and Berna for making everything so special. To all a very Merry Christmas and Healthy and Happy New Year!

Jeanne





# Senior Division

President Notes by :

**Wes Barkwill**

This year as Senior Association President has been an interesting experience. The golf played here at home and away at courses such as Fort Washington in Fresno and Spring Creek in Ripon has been great. The seniors from the other clubs have all been friendly and very outgoing as hosts.

Our next events will be in January as we close out our 2017 season and celebrate our accomplishments with our annual awards dinner. We will hold a local event on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – a 9:00am shotgun. The awards dinner will be on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, with no-host cocktails starting at 5:30. We will be handing out our draft schedule for 2018 at the dinner. Sign-up sheets for both events are on the bulletin board in the card room. The dinner sign-up sheet indicates the cost of each members' guest dinner. Players who have not played in enough events to have their guest's meal at no cost still have the opportunity to lower their guest's cost by participating in the Local event on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Seniors Association has been going strong for over 40 years. We need the help and participation of our senior members – those 50 years of age and older. Yes, I know, 50 isn't old, it's a state of mind. Anyway, I have posted a sign-up sheet for the 2018 season. The cost of membership is \$40 and it includes your dinner at the 2018 awards banquet in January 2019.

Have a safe and healthy New Years and I will see you on the course.

### January Senior events

January 5<sup>th</sup>, Local – continental breakfast and lunch  
January 6<sup>th</sup> – 2017 Awards banquet

### February Senior events

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Local – continental breakfast and lunch  
February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Local – continental breakfast and lunch

On behalf of Chef Dave, Tina, the MGCC staff and myself we would like to thank the MGCC officers and members for another wonderful 2017 and we all look forward to seeing everyone in 2018.

Special thanks to Mr. Paul Leonardo for the nice Christmas treat!

*Thank you*



## *Golf* Season **KICKOFF**

Jan 30

*9t9ers* Golf Kick-off  
9:00 Shotgun

Feb 1

*18-hole Ladies DIV*  
Golf Kick-off  
8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Shotgun



# January 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 HAPPY NEW YEAR !!! Club Closed				<b>Senior Local Tournament</b>	<b>Senior Dinner</b> 6:00pm
7	<b>Club Closed</b>		<b>Men's Stag Day</b> 12:30p Shotgun 6:00pm MGCC Gen Mtg			PRIVATE PARTY
14	<b>Martin Luther King Day</b>	<b>Club Closed</b>	PRIVATE PARTY		<b>CRAB Feed</b> 6-8pm	
21	<b>Club Closed</b>	 6:00p BOD Mtg.				
28	<b>Club Closed</b>	<b>9t9ers</b> Golf Kick-off 9:00am Shotgun		Feb 1st: <b>18-hole DIV</b> Golf Kickoff		

# Crab Feed

**Jan 19th**

**6:00pm-8:00pm**

Tossed Caesar Salad

Garlic Bread

Dungeness Cracked Crab

Cocktail Sauce &

Drawn Butter

Rigatoni Marinara

Boiled Red Potatoes

Ice Cream & Cookie



**\$42.00 ++**

# Men's Stag Day

**JAN 10, 2017**

**12:00p.m. Shotgun**

*Dinner served after golf.  
All Players  
automatically included for dinner.  
Sign-ups in the Pro-Shop*



## MENU

Salad Bar  
Beef Stew  
Corn Bread  
Cookie

Dinner: 5:00pm

**MGCC**  
Annual General  
Meeting

6:00pm

# Looking Ahead...

## February

- Feb 1 18-Hole Ladies Division  
Golf Kick-off  
8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Shotgun
- Feb 6 9-T-Niners (Front 9)  
9:00 Shotgun
- Feb 7 Men's Stag  
12:30pm Shotgun
- Feb 8 18-Hole Ladies Division  
9:00 Shotgun  
2:00pm General Meeting
- Feb 13 9-T-Niners (Back 9)  
9:00 Shotgun
- Feb 14 Valentines Day
- Feb 15 18-Hole Ladies Division  
9:00 Shotgun
- Feb 16 Friday Night Dining
- Feb 19 President's Day  
Club Open
- Feb 20 Club Closed
- Feb 22 18-Hole Ladies Division  
9:00 Shotgun  
2:00pm General Meeting
- Feb 23 9-T-Niners (Front 9)  
9:00 Shotgun
- Feb 27 9-T-Niners (Back 9) Guest Day  
9:00 Shotgun  
6:00pm MGCC Board Meeting



## MERCED GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB DRESS CODE

### CLUBHOUSE & DINING ROOM

All members and guests are required to adhere to Merced Country Club's Dress Code when in the club. These general guidelines apply for adults and children above the age of five. The dress code is listed below:

Jackets may be required for more formal events. Women are requested to dress in a fashion compatible with the dress required of men, which may include dresses, skirts, slacks or pantsuits.

Typical golf attire; and clean, comfortable attire are encouraged at all times. Ladies may wear sleeveless shirts that have a collar; or a non collared shirt with sleeves. Men's Golf attire, blue denim clothing and blue denim jeans in good, clean condition are acceptable attire in the Bar, Dining Room, Patio, Pool, Parking Lot, Pro Shop, Locker Rooms and Club Offices .

NO BLUE DENIM JEANS are allowed on the Golf Course, Putting Green, Driving Range, and Practice Facility.

The following attire is NOT allowed in the **Clubhouse** (Including the Dining Room, Bar and Banquet Room), on the **Golf Course or Driving Range**

- Shorts, skorts or skirts higher than 4" above the knee
- T-Shirts or Tank Tops; Gym Shorts or any other Gym attire.
- Overalls; cut-offs; clothes with frayed edges or holes
- Swimsuits or Swimwear of any kind; wet or soiled clothing
- Trousers, or other types of clothing that clearly are extreme in size and that cause the clothing item to hang loosely from the body, or that may expose areas of the body or visible undergarments, are prohibited.
- Tops exposing the mid-sections or other areas of the body are not acceptable.

Exceptions to the dress code will be: Attire worn for Theme Parties and other designated events which the general Manager must approve prior to the events.

Wearing appropriate blue denim will be permitted on the golf course although not encouraged, from November 1 through March 31.

#### **Other Restrictions to: Bar, Dining Room, and Banquet Rooms**

- Hats/caps for gentlemen are not permitted in the dining room except as traditional religious, ethnic, or medical head covering. Hats/caps must be worn facing forward. It is appropriate etiquette for gentlemen to remove hats while indoors.
- Shoes and/or sandals must be worn at all times.
- Soft spikes are not permitted in the Dining Room.

Thank you for your compliance.

#### MEMBERSHIP COUNT

Playing . . . . .	168
Pre-Paid Program . . . . .	5
Associate Firm . . . . .	8
Leave of Absence . . . . .	4
Special Social . . . . .	23
Honorary . . . . .	1
Social . . . . .	1
Social/Proprietary . . . . .	1
Executive Membership. . . . .	83
Young Executive . . . . .	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>